

Remarks/Arguments

A. Summary of Claims

Claim 13 is revised to correct a typographical error. No claims have been added or cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-35 are pending, with claims 10-22 and 31-34 currently withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

B. Response to Restriction Requirement

The Examiner requests restriction to one of the following three groups: (1) claims 1-9, 23-30, and 35, drawn to a particulate absorbent material; (2) claims 10-22, drawn to a process for producing a particulate absorbent material; and (3) claims 31-34, drawn to the use of the absorbent material in the manufacture of an absorbent product.

Applicant elects Group I (*i.e.*, claims 1-9, 23-30, and 35) with traverse. All of the claims share a special technical feature, which is not disclosed in the cited art.

C. Response to Species Election Requirement

The Examiner further requests election of the following species for the Group I invention: (i) a species of waxy starch; (ii) a species of cross-linker; and (iii) a species of co-absorbent material, respectively.

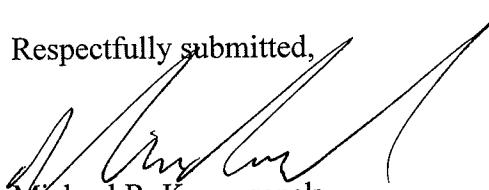
Applicant elects the following species in response: (i) waxy maize starch; (ii) sodium trimetaphosphate; and (iii) fibers, respectively. Non-withdrawn claims 1-9, 23-30, and 35 read on the elected species.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of additional species.

D. Conclusion

Applicant requests that substantive prosecution begin. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Applicants' representative at (512) 536-3020.

Respectfully submitted,



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